

1 A Uh, fairly close to 6:00 P.M. we were going to leave
2 for dinner. Dr. Abernathy was also in the room. Dr. King
3 came out. I was still in the room. He came out on the bal-
4 cony and was greeting some of the people who were in the
5 courtyard, and he came back in the room, I believe to get
6 his coat, and the both of us came out together, and we stood
7 at this point on the balcony for about, about three minutes
8 greeting some people who also were going to dinner with us.
9 And we stood together there about three or four minutes, and
10 I turned to my right to walk away and said I was going and
11 get my car and take some of the people who were going to
12 dinner.

13 I got approximately 5 or 6 steps away from him and
14 I heard what I now know to be a shot, and I looked over the
15 railing. I thought it was a car backfiring, or something,
16 and when I realized what had happened, I turned back to my
17 left and saw Dr. King lying in a position thusly with a
18 tremendous wound in his right side. He was laying in this
19 position with the wound here (indicating).

20 Q All right. Can you depict on there with your
21 finger, Rev. Kyles, whereabouts was Dr. King lying at that
22 time?

23 A In the little indented point here (indicating).
24 There is a little indented place where the balcony comes and

1 A Visiting with Dr. King, and I was his lawyer.

2 Q You represented Dr. King?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Now, Mr. Eskridge, I am going to ask you to come
5 down, if you will, please, sir, and let me show you a mock-
6 up of that part of the city.

7 (Witness complies with request.)

8 Q If you will, if you will take the pointer, Mr.
9 Eskridge, and orient yourself a little bit there.

10 Around 6:00 P.M. on that date, where were you lo-
11 cated, sir?

12 Come around here, Mr. Eskridge, so the Jury can see
13 what you are doing.

14 A I was standing in the courtway looking up at the
15 door at 306, the room 306, and I would have been about here
16 (indicating).

17 Q All right, sir, now at that time were you engaging
18 Dr. King in conversation or anything like that, Mr. Eskridge?

19 A Well, at 6:00 o'clock he came out of the room. I
20 was awaiting him to go to dinner and I was at the car. The
21 driver of the car was standing in front of me. We were both
22 on the lefthand side of the car, and Rev. Andrew Young was
23 on the righthand side of the car.

24 At any moment we were expecting Dr. King to come

1 from the room. He opened the door and came out one time and
2 he said something about, "Tell Jesse we are ready to go."

3 He went back in to put in his shirttail and a few
4 minutes later he came out with his coat on and he put his
5 coat on and put his hand on the rail and leaned over the
6 rail and said, "Okay, start the car."

7 Whereupon, the sound came from my right ear and
8 said, "Zing!"

9 And I looked to my left rear to see what it was.
10 And I turned back and looked and he was laying on his back.

11 Q Mr. Eskridge, when you turned to your left, did you
12 look back over towards a rooming house there shown on the
13 mock-up?

14 A I did.

15 Q Did you see anybody moving about over there at that
16 time?

17 A I did not.

18 Q All right, now, when you turned back, you saw Dr.
19 King, he was sprawled out on the balcony; is that right?

20 A That's right.

21 Q Did you go to the hospital with Dr. King?

22 A I did.

23 Q And at that time were you informed that he was dead?

24 A I was.